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## Alexandria Gazette.

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### CAUSES OF DEFEAT.

The cardinal causes of the Russian defeat have been the subject of general discussion in Tokyo. One Japanese expert gives the following analysis:

First, an imperfect reconnaissance and incomplete, faulty and misleading intelligence.

Second, an imperfect battle formation, which indicated that the Russian did not expect to meet Togo off Tsushima.

Third, the weather, the direction of the wind and the sunlight were unfavorable to the Russians. Togo having the sun behind him and firing with the wind, while the Russians had the sunlight in their eyes and fired against the wind.

Fourth, the Russians wasted their ammunition and finally ran short. It is believed that the surrender of Nebogoff was necessary, because his ammunition had been expended.

Fifth, the marked inferiority of the Russian gunnery.

Fighting in the Russian admiralty against Rear Admiral Nebogoff continues to run high, the majority of the naval authorities being deaf to the appeals of the few who insist that the admiral's action in surrendering his warships should not be condemned until the circumstances become fully known. The majority says they could forgive anything but surrender, and point to the precedent set in the case of the Russian warship Rapahe, which in 1829, during the Russo-Turkish war, struck its colors to three Turkish ships which surrounded it.

Nicholas I meted out a terrible punishment to the officers and crew of the Rapahe, ordering that all of them should be shot after their exchange, and directing that if the ship should ever be recaptured its infamous history should be blotted out by the total destruction of the vessel. The Rapahe, strange to say, was recaptured twenty-four years later at Sinope, during the Crimean war, a son of the captain who surrendered her taking part in the battle, and to this son fell the task of executing the dead Emperor's orders to destroy her.

Many naval authorities declare that the Czar should reserve the same fate for Admiral Nebogoff.

That mutiny, treachery and cowardice prevailed on some of the Russian warships during the recent engagement in the sea of Japan now seems certain, as information concerning the charge comes from various sources.

A horrible story is in circulation in Tokyo concerning the wounded on the Orel. It is said that at the opening of the fight 300 men were killed and wounded, and that the groans and shrieks of the wounded exercised a fearful effect that it was decided to throw the mortally wounded into the sea.

One hundred and forty it is said, were thrown overboard. Those slightly wounded were then fastened to the mast to prevent their interference with the fighting of the ship.

Ugly stories are circulating in St. Petersburg of the demoralization, and even treachery, of the crews of several of the Russian ships during the battle, and it is even said that the crew of the battleship Orel bound their officers and hoisted the white flag.

The origin of these stories which are discredited by naval men in St. Petersburg cannot be traced, as the only direct information comes from Japan, but doubtless they are based on the trouble among the crew of the Orel before her departure for the far East.

She was sunk at her dock before she left Cronstadt, and later at Libau the crew were mutinous.

All censorship is now removed from foreign dispatches, and the people are appalled at the horrible stories of slaughter on board the Russian ships. The admiral has not yet been able to establish even approximately from the foreign dispatches the loss of men, but as the ships were over rather than undermanned, the total will be greater than the ordinary complement of the vessel would indicate, and probably will exceed 10,000, if only about 4,000 were saved.

With the destruction of Russia's naval power interest is returning to military operations on land. Togo's victory tremendously alters the military situation and removes all limits of offensive operations against Russia's maritime provinces. It is now possible to effectively close Vladivostok, seize Sakhalin, the mouth of the Amur river, Kamchatka and any point between the Tumen river and the Arctic circle the Japanese may desire.

A foreign military observer in discussing the question says:

Togo's victory may drive Russia away from the Pacific coast of Asia. Japan now has a free hand in Russia's maritime provinces, and her offensive capability is limited. Nothing bars the way except the Russian force at Vladivostok, whose speedy isolation is possible. The Amur river is open to the Japanese and Russia's defensive capability is now entirely limited to the capacity of the Chinese.

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